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ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 6NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
23 December 1981

Is the general dead?

Rome (UPI)—An anonymous caller said yesterday the Red Brigades had killed Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier but Italian police discounted the claim as a hoax and pressed their search for the kidnaped American officer.

Italian news organizations also received other calls from people claiming to know where Dozier was being held or where his body had been dumped. The police said all the calls

were apparent hoaxes and arrested one man, a German who they said had a reputation as a hoaxter.

"There is no reason to ask the CIA for help to free the imperialist American pig," an Arabic-speaking man claiming to represent the Red Brigades said in a telephone call to the Beirut office of ANSA, the Italian news agency.

In Washington, the State Depart-

ment said: "We have seen the report from ANSA but we have no information to deny or confirm it."

ANSA quoted the caller as saying: "The Red Brigades of Baader-Meinhof make the following announcement: The Red Brigades claim responsibility for the condemning to death and the execution of the American general, James Dozier, judged guilty by a peoples' tribunal."

Another anonymous caller told the newspaper Giornale de Vicenza that Dozier's body had been dumped near the Ederle barracks in Vicenza. Police searched the area but found nothing.

Dozier, 50, was kidnaped in Verona last Thursday. Red Brigades members disguised as plumbers knocked him unconscious and hauled him away in a cardboard box.

Noting that the Red Brigades had never made such a call from outside Italy, police investigators said that they are skeptical about the authenticity of the Beirut call. "But it could be one of their tricks, so we have to take it into account," an investigator said.